

STENOGRAPHER, COMMITTEE ON WAR CLAIMS.

JANUARY 13, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BARTLETT, of Georgia, from the Committee on Accounts, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. Res. No. 227.]

The Committee on Accounts, to whom was referred House resolution No. 175, authorizing the appointment of a stenographer to the Committee on War Claims, have had the same under consideration and recommend in lieu thereof the adoption of the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That there shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House, for the services of a stenographer to the Committee on War Claims during the sessions of the Sixty-first Congress, compensation at the rate of seventy-five dollars per month, payment to commence from the time said stenographer entered upon the discharge of his duties, which shall be ascertained and evidenced by the chairman of said committee.

This resolution is identical in effect with the one recommended by your committee and adopted by the House in the last Congress. The facts in support thereof are fully set forth in House Report No. 281 of the Sixtieth Congress, which is hereto appended and made a part of this report. For the reasons therein stated your committee recommend the adoption of the accompanying substitute resolution.

[House Report No. 281, Sixtieth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Accounts, to whom was referred House resolution No. 142, have had the same under consideration, and recommend in lieu thereof the adoption of the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That there shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House, for the services of a stenographer to the Committee on War Claims, during the sessions of the Sixtieth Congress, compensation at the rate of seventy-five dollars per month, payment to commence from the time said stenographer entered upon the discharge of his duties, which shall be ascertained and evidenced by the chairman of said committee."

The chairman of the Committee on War Claims has stated to your committee that the services of this proposed stenographer are indispensable to the proper dispatch of the business of that committee. Some 2,000 or 3,000 bills have been referred to the Committee on War Claims, besides many hundred petitions. These bills and petitions have to be docketed, which requires the time of the clerical force of the committee. The chairman of the committee pointed out that while it may be just

as desirable to fail to report some bills from his committee as it is to report them favorably, the work of determining upon those to be favorably reported necessitates careful examination of all claims presented to the committee, and that it is often found to be the case that claimants who are seeking payment at this time were paid, some of them twenty, thirty, or forty years ago, and in the work of making these discoveries and of presenting the facts to the committee the clerk whose duty it is to make such investigations finds it necessary, in the intelligent discharge of his duties, to have the assistance of a stenographer. The committee is in constant communication with the Court of Claims of the United States and refers to that court hundreds of claims under what is known as the "Bowman Act." Claims under the so-called Tucker Act are referred to the court by resolution of the House, and resolutions of this character are prepared in and reported from the Committee on War Claims, the committee first ascertaining which cases should go to the court under said act, which duties also necessitate the assistance of a stenographer.

In the committee room is a complete library of reports of former committees, decisions of the courts, records of the Commissary and Quartermaster Departments, and general orders issued by the War Department and by officers in the field, all of which contain the law and the practice with reference to the claims growing out of the civil war, and all of which are familiar to the committee's expert in such matters, who is constantly drawing upon these sources of information, and in that connection finds it necessary to call in stenographic help, for which payment has been made by the chairman of the committee.

In view of these facts your committee are of the opinion that the services of a stenographer to the Committee on War Claims should be granted, and therefore favorably report the resolution.

O